

Child Welfare League of America

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

Bulletin

NEW SERIES, VOL. VI, No. 9

November 15, 1927

"No conqueror can make the multitude different from what it is; no statesman can carry world affairs beyond the ideas and capacities of the generation of adults with which he deals; but teachers—I use the word in the widest sense—can do more than either conqueror or statesman; they can create a new vision and liberate the latent powers of our kind."—H. G. WELLS

POINTS DECIDED UPON AS RATING BASIS

In the October BULLETIN, which contained the report of the Executive Committee meeting, reference was made to the report of the Committee on Standards of Membership, which urged that definite measures be taken to make possible an evaluation of the work of member agencies upon the basis of seventeen points agreed upon by the Committee.

Since it will not be possible to undertake the rating project scientifically for some time, League members may be interested in doing some self-rating through examining their own organizations upon the basis of these seventeen points. After six years of co-operative effort to raise their own standards, and thereby affect the entire child welfare field, the members of the League should be exceedingly interested in checking, merely for their own information, their actual practices under each of the following headings with what they have accepted as proper minima of service:

1. Organization.
2. Personnel.
3. Equipment, including records.
4. Financial resources.
5. Case-load:
 - (a) Investigation.
 - (b) Home-finding.
 - (c) Child supervision.
6. Intake case-work.
7. Placement procedure.
8. Selection of foster homes.
9. Supervision of standards.
10. Health program:
 - (a) Physical.
 - (b) Mental.
 - (c) Social.
11. Recreation program.
12. Educational, including vocational program:
 - (a) Cultural.
 - (b) Aesthetic.
 - (c) Religious.
13. Family adjustment.
14. Discharge and after-care.
15. Adaptation to community needs.
16. Co-ordination with other social forces.
17. Interpretation of the job to the community.

INSTITUTION NEWS

At Christmas time, in 1926, the Superintendent of the Indianapolis Orphan Asylum received a gift of money from the Rotarians of Indianapolis. The gift was to provide for several parties for the children during the year. It has proved a valuable contribution. Various social affairs, which mean much in the lives of children, have been made possible because of this special fund. The money lasted so that there was enough left to finance a jolly Hallowe'en party.

Many institutions can profit from this precedent by persuading generous benefactors to send Christmas gifts which will last for several months or throughout the year. In the end every one will be happier than if there are only excessive gifts of Christmas toys and candy. It has also been suggested that a desirable Christmas gift would be a fund sufficient to provide a small monthly or weekly allowance during the New Year for each child. It means much for them to learn how to buy, save and give from their own spending money.

The monthly periodical from St. Paul's Orphans' Home, Greenville, Pennsylvania, announces that certain books are needed in the children's library.

If such announcements are made well in advance of Christmas, it should be possible to direct into literary channels some of the generous gifts which otherwise may come only in the form of candy. Every one wants children to have candy, but why not provide sweets for the mind as well as for the stomach? The book shelves in most cottages and in most institution libraries are deficient in the great biographies and classics which are loved by children. Many such books now may be secured with beautiful illustrations.

The children under our care will be enriched if we help them to an acquaintance with the best known books by Stevenson, Kipling, Cooper, Alcott, Mark Twain, and those by our most capable contemporaries, such as Burgess, Burnett, Dodge, Milne and Wiggin.

For guidance in selecting a children's library, help may be secured from reading lists which may be purchased from the Child Study Association of America, 54 West 74th Street, New York City, and the following

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

**"PUBLIC CHILD-CARING WORK IN CERTAIN
COUNTIES OF MINNESOTA, NORTH
CAROLINA AND NEW YORK"**

(Bureau Publication 173)

Reviewed by MARY S. LABAREE

Bureau of Children, Department of Welfare
Harrisburg, Penna.

A Bulletin on "Public Child-Caring Work in Certain Counties of Minnesota, North Carolina and New York" (Bureau Publication 173) has been recently issued by the U. S. Children's Bureau. The study was made by H. Ida Curry, Superintendent of County Children's Agencies of the New York State Charities Aid Association. It presents interesting material and will prove a valuable reference book for those who are developing county or state programs of child care.

The reader is struck with the progress that has been made in these three states in the care of dependent, neglected and delinquent children, but the methods used and the results obtained are quite dissimilar. To quote: "In Minnesota the State board becomes the guardian of children and carries direct social case work responsibilities. In North Carolina and New York the State boards perform neither of these duties except as the North Carolina board expends State funds for mothers' aid."

The recognition by the State of its direct responsibility for the care of needy children and its courageous grappling with the problem of illegitimacy make the Minnesota program noteworthy. Moreover, the existence of child welfare boards which represent the State in various counties makes possible a much more far-reaching work than a central office staff could attempt unaided. The report points out that this plan has developed the use of volunteer county board members in the case work field to an extent nowhere else attempted.

There are one or two features in Minnesota's organization that strike an outsider as cumbersome. One of these has to do with the provision for normal dependent children. These are supported in a State school until they can be placed in free family homes. The Children's Bureau has no authority over this institution, although the supervision of all private child-helping organizations is centered in the Bureau. Another odd feature of Minnesota's system is its supervision of boarding and free homes. Whereas every free home placement by a private agency must be visited and passed upon by the State Bureau, the latter delegates to several of the private child-caring agencies the inspection and supervision of boarding homes.

In North Carolina it is interesting to find public social work a responsibility of the county, the State coming into the picture principally through its ap-

pointment of county boards and endorsement of county executives, and its supervisory and standardizing duties. Education and health activities in North Carolina had long been organized on a county basis and this was the most logical form of welfare activities for the State to adopt.

North Carolina has made a valuable experiment in providing training for its county superintendents of public welfare through co-operation between the State Board of Welfare and the State University.

The reader of the report cannot but be staggered by the multiplicity of duties imposed upon the county board executives in North Carolina. Interest is also arrested by the fact that intricate case work problems must be solved by the county superintendent of schools in the counties where he acts also as superintendent of public welfare. Even though he may have had some training in social work, is it possible for him to keep an adequate county school program going and still give personal attention to problems of unmarried mothers, of child placing, of general poor relief, of the child labor law, and of paroled children from State institutions? But, as is noted in the report, the welfare program is primarily one to keep children in school.

North Carolina, having a mandatory act, has been able to carry its county program into its 100 counties. Minnesota and New York with permissive acts have not gone so far, though few counties in either of those states are entirely without some form of service to children.

The New York system differs materially from both the other two; only one county, Dutchess, is reported upon in detail, and it operates under a special statute.

Here we find a definite provision of funds for the public support of needy children, and a county board of child welfare having the direct duty of caring for and protecting all such children. "The power of the board to provide any form of case work treatment was limited only by its ability to get the necessary appropriations." Herein is an outstanding contrast to North Carolina and Minnesota, where the protection of children is too often handicapped by inability to secure sufficient county funds for the carrying through of a constructive plan of treatment.

With State programs such as these already resulting in the bettering of child life, it is to be hoped that other states will be stimulated to establish forms of public child care adapted to their needs. No developments in this field of public care should be undertaken without a thorough preliminary study of the systems already operating in Minnesota, North Carolina and New York.

GOLDEN RULE SUNDAY—DECEMBER 4th

(Continued from page 1, column 2)

lists as well as others which may be secured free of charge from the Bureau of Education, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.:

Miscellaneous Reading for Boys.
Miscellaneous Reading for Girls.
Thirty Books of Great Fiction.
Thirty World Heroes.
Thirty American Heroes.

Subscriptions to periodicals are gifts which children appreciate, especially if they are children's magazines, such as John Martin's Book, St. Nicholas, Youth's Companion, The American Girl and Boys' Life. Also there are many magazines which children enjoy as much as do grown-ups—National Geographic, Literary Digest, Popular Mechanics and various nature study magazines such as Bird Lore.

Cottage mothers will find many practical suggestions regarding the treatment of enuresis in a special bulletin recently issued by the Federal Children's Bureau on this subject. The use of illustrative case material adds greatly to the value of the publication.

BETTER CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENTS

Among the institutions maintaining unusually high standards for dramatic and musical entertainment at the Christmas season is the Rome State School, Rome, New York. A cantata, "Tho' Poor Be The Chamber," by Gounod, was only one of several programs prepared for Christmas week of last year. In the institution's monthly HERALD for January, 1927, are listed the following tableaux which were presented on Christmas Sunday:

- "Scene I. Angel Gabriel Announcement to Mary
Carol, 'It Came Upon the Midnight Clear'
- "Scene II. Three Wise Men Reading Prophecy
Carol, 'The Three Men of the Orient'
- "Scene III. Shepherds Beholding the Star
Carol, 'First Noel'
- "Scene IV. Three Kings Bearing Gifts
Carol, 'We Three Kings'
- "Scene V. Manger Bed with Mary and Joseph
Gazing at Jesus
Carol, 'Come to the Manger'
- "Scene VI. The Kings and Shepherds at Manger
with Mary
Carol, 'Silent Night'
- "Scene VII. True Christmas Spirit. A family of
four are inviting two ragged urchins to
help enjoy their Christmas
Carol, 'O, Come All Ye Faithful.'"

On other days there were simpler Christmas plays and songs entitled, "Christmas in Santa Claus Land," "Santa Claus in Mother Goose Land," "Jolly Saint Nicholas," and "Christmas Chimes." Also there were parties for the various units of the institution.

This being an institution for the feeble-minded, we may expect equally good taste in planning entertainments in institutions which serve more normal children. The practice and drill required for such presentations can be directed by volunteer workers who have dramatic or musical ability. The use of such volunteers will relieve the employed staff—always busy as Christmas approaches—and should guarantee the best instruction the community affords.

HAVANA TO ENTERTAIN PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS

The Fifth Pan-American Congress of Child Welfare will be held in Havana, Cuba, December 8 to 14. Mr. C. C. Carstens, Executive Director of the Child Welfare League of America, who is to participate in the program, has been appointed an official delegate by the State Department and will go to Havana following the Southern Regional Conference at Birmingham.

The subject of Mr. Carstens' paper is "Duties of the State or Nation Towards Abandoned or Neglected Children." In summarizing the responsibilities of the State, Mr. Carstens emphasizes the following obligations:

1. To protect and care for children, to give them an opportunity for their largest self-realization and to protect itself.
2. To encourage and to utilize private service in the particular fields where it can function efficiently.
3. To see that child-caring needs are adequately met by existing agencies or to provide child-care itself.
4. To appreciate that the opportunity for a child to grow up in his own family is a priceless one if it reasonably well inculcates the fundamentals of good home and community life.
5. To encourage the preventive phases of child protection which are fundamental and productive of better results than remedial measures taken after some tragedy in the life of a child has occurred.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

New books listed on the bulletin board of the Russell Sage Library include:

- The Inner World of Childhood, by Frances G. Wickes, with an introduction by Jung.
- The Disinherited Family—A plea for direct provision for the costs of child maintenance through family allowances, by Eleanor Rathbone.
- The Public and Its Problems, by John Dewey.

NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORKERS,
Hotel Suburban, East Orange, December 1, 2 and 3.

THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

President—ALBERT H. STONEMAN, Detroit
Vice-President—A. T. JAMISON, Greenwood, S. C.
Secretary—MISS GEORGIA G. RALPH, New York
Treasurer—ALFRED F. WHITMAN, 41 Mt. Vernon St., Boston, Mass.
Executive Director—C. C. CARSTENS, New York

THE PITTSFIELD CLINIC

How to make social service a respectable commodity in community life rather than to have it mean "something part of us do to the rest of us who can't help themselves" is the ideal of all thoughtful persons interested in the development of social welfare.

The Pittsfield Clinic, as described by William B. Terhune, M.D., in the November BULLETIN published by the Massachusetts Society for Mental Hygiene, seems to point the way to many potential possibilities for making social case work available to more persons than those making up the "submerged" group. Dr. Terhune's article is reprinted in full:

"In a town of fifty thousand people an adequate mental health service exists providing attention for people from all walks of life and at a nominal charge. It is an accepted and rather unheralded part of the community life, apparently creating no more interest than the city water supply, board of health, or local hospital. It is there, used and taken for granted. There doctors seek help in diagnosis and refer patients for treatment. Business organizations refer their employees, social agencies come for advice, courts request medical opinions, and, best of all, the man on the street knows of it and comes freely, without shame, for assistance.

"This clinic is not a place of sadness; instead there is an atmosphere of restrained hopefulness; the doctors and workers there have a reputation for curing people, a reputation of ten years' duration. The children, many of whom are referred from the schools, are entertained and supervised by a psychiatric worker who is adept in understanding children. There are pleasant pictures on the walls, light streaming through the windows, and all consultations are by appointment. There is an atmosphere of understanding, friendliness and respect for a confidence which is usually completely disarming.

"The medical consultations take place in a modern hospital; no patient passes through the clinic without undergoing a complete physical examination. Three, sometimes four, psychiatrists give their time—an afternoon a week—to the clinic. The social service staff consists of three experienced psychiatric workers. We are fortunate in having one member of the staff who has been locally trained in psychiatric work who was a teacher for many years in a local school and knows the general and personal idiosyncrasies of the community. These workers are on a full-time basis, assisted by two well-trained secretaries and volunteer workers. The

social workers are supplied with a motor service, they hold their own staff meetings, and attend staff meetings with the physicians.

"No expense, time, or trouble is spared in seeing that a patient is adequately cared for—not once in ten years has the clinic failed to see a patient through an illness, for, although the clinic itself does not contribute money, its standing in the community is such that when it asks for help for a patient the assistance is forthcoming.

"For many years many of us have been busy trying to sell Mental Hygiene to communities, and here is a community so sold to the idea that they take it as if it had always existed. There should be such a clinic in every community and, like hospitals, they should be endowed institutions. They should not be dependent on Community Chests, nor should they be placed in the category of charitable organizations. Experience shows that a community health clinic is fully as necessary as is a properly organized hospital. Fortunate is the community possessing an endowed mental health service."

THE MORON DEFENDED

At the meeting of the National Committee on Mental Hygiene, held in New York on November 10th, Dr. George A. Wallace, Superintendent of the Wrentham State School for the Feeble-Minded at Wrentham, Mass., defended the moron, declaring that "it is not her mental level on which the moron stubs her toe, but rather on her lack of social adjustment."

Dr. Wallace stressed the fact that intelligence quotients and mental levels are given too much prominence in our approach to the social problems of the feeble-minded, whereas such problems should be regarded in the same light as those occurring in any other class of population.

"Thousands of morons are unknown except for their good works because they react normally to their environment, they are honest, industrious and well poised," continued Dr. Wallace.

"Who are the morons," he asked, "who are making the trouble in the community? They are exactly the same classes who are making the trouble on the higher mental levels—pathological liars, thieves, rovers, psychopathic personalities, neurasthenics and those suffering from laziness, brainstorms, inferiority complexes, temperamental episodes, emotional instability, etc.

"It is, therefore, important that social maladjustment occurring in the moron group should be brought out in the open and should, as a problem, be viewed within the realm of mental hygiene and for practical purposes mental levels should be forgotten."

More than 300 persons from the United States, Canada, England, Norway and Hungary attended the meeting.

DATES AHEAD

A mimeographed pamphlet, "Dates Ahead," is issued annually by the Committee on Publicity Methods, 130 East 22d Street, New York City, for the convenience of publicity secretaries and executives in planning for conventions, meetings and special occasions, and to aid in avoiding dates already announced for other events.

The 1927-1928 edition schedules events for the year ending September, 1928, and includes several pages of suggestions on making use of special dates, with sources of information. A supplement giving additional dates will be issued. The list has been found useful by librarians, magazine and newspaper editors, program committees of clubs, and others. 20 cents a copy.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW

The Claridge Hotel has been selected as headquarters for the Children's Division of the National Conference of Social Work and for the Child Welfare League of America during the period of the National Conference which convenes at Memphis, May 2 to May 9, 1928.

The chairman of the local committee is urging that all reservations be made as early as possible. Two hundred rooms are available at the Claridge.

General conference headquarters will be at the Peabody. The only other hotels near the Peabody and the Claridge are the new Tennessee and the Adler, which together have only about 275 rooms available for conference delegates. The Gayosa, which will give 150 rooms, is at the other end of town.

It is probable that the Children's Division and the Child Welfare League will hold their meetings at the same place so that exhibits and consultation service may be centralized.

CHILDREN'S COMPENSATION

On July 1, 1927, the new provisions of the Illinois workmen's compensation act came into effect, under which illegally employed children who are injured in industrial accidents are now entitled to the benefits of the act and will also receive compensation amounting to one and a half times as much as they would have received if they had been legally employed. Before the passage of this legislation children who were illegally employed had no rights under the compensation act but had to bring suit against their employers under the common law in case of injury. This remedy, it is stated, was tried in comparatively few cases because of the cost, uncertainty, and delay of court procedure. It is expected that under the new law employers will be more careful in observing the State child labor law and in demanding adequate proof of age from their minor workers. (Life and Labor Bulletin, Chicago, October, 1927, p. 4.)

THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The City of Birmingham, Alabama, has been selected as the meeting place of the Southern Regional Conference to be held November 21 and 22. Miss Rhoda Kaufman is Chairman of the League Sub-committee on Regional Conferences and Dr. A. T. Jamison is Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements for the Birmingham meeting.

The tentative program prepared by Dr. Jamison and his committee is as follows:

November 21, 1927

10:00 A.M. "What shall we do for the health of our children in institutions?"—J. O. Colley, Supt., Baptist Orphans' Home, Troy, Alabama.

12:30 P.M. Luncheon—"The Child Welfare League of America—What is it?"—Dr. C. C. Carstens.

2:30 P.M. "Case Work Responsibility in Family Adjustment and in Connection with the Institutions."—Miss Ernestine McGill, Atlanta School of Social Work.

3:30 P.M. "Mothers' Aid."—Mrs. A. M. Tunstall, State Child Welfare Department of Alabama.

7:30 P.M. Dinner—Speaker to be announced.

November 22, 1927

10:00 A.M. "The Fundamentals of the Child Welfare League as Regards Child Placing."—Dr. C. C. Carstens.

12:30 P.M. Luncheon—"Saving Children from Delinquency."—Miss Ella Charles, Social Service Department, Church of the Advent, Birmingham, Ala.

2:30 P.M. "Relations between Children's Agencies and Family Case Working Agencies."—Miss Ruth Brown, Georgia State Board of Public Welfare.

EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

January 5 and 6, 1928, are the dates selected for the Eastern Regional Conference of the Child Welfare League of America, which will be held in New York. Further details concerning program and meeting place will be given in the December BULLETIN.

The Executive Committee of the National Conference of Social Work meets in New York on January 4th. Thus the date selected for the Regional Conference will make it possible for persons interested in both meetings to kill two birds with one stone.

HEALTH FACTORS IN PROTECTIVE WORK

The meaning of good health as opposed to poor health in terms of conduct of fathers, mothers and children is expressed so concretely in the 1926 Annual Report of one of our members that we quote the section to give it wider circulation. Mrs. Erskine, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Society to Protect Children from Cruelty, writes:

"We have emphasized medical work in our families, and during the past few years this has marked a long step forward in the work of the Society. Little can be expected of the half-sick or the physically or mentally handicapped, and much of the welfare of the family depends upon help along these lines. Therefore, not only the children brought to our Shelter for care, but many others remaining in their own homes, together with the parents, receive full medical attention, and many hours are spent by our agents in their tireless efforts to see that contacts with hospitals and doctors are arranged for, and follow-up work faithfully carried out. We have learned that often a delinquent or irresponsible parent suffers from some malady that easily accounts for apparent shortcomings, and that a problem child or juvenile delinquent improves greatly in conduct after some physical correction has been made. Also that many children, underfed and undernourished, and many with physical ailments unknown to ignorant parents, responded with good health after being placed under competent medical supervision, and were brought to proper moral standards.

"During 1926 over 2000 of our children were brought to the attention of hospital clinics. We maintain, in connection with two other children's organizations, [the Children's Bureau and the Children's Aid Society.—Ed.], an Associated Medical Clinic where 1334 of this number were examined the past year. In this Clinic, which stands out as one of the best of its kind, the children are given special examinations, with routine examinations included in the follow-up work, so that all recommendations of the physicians are fully carried out. Furthermore, those children who have become wards of the Society through court action receive special medical examinations at regular periods. At every step the health of the child is so guarded as to give it a chance to face life with a clean, fit body."

NEW HOSPITAL FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN

It is expected that construction will start this fall on the new William Henry Eustis Hospital for Crippled Children, to be built on the campus of the University of Minnesota. The funds for the new hospital, amounting to between \$500,000 and \$600,000, have been provided entirely by Mr. Eustis, a former mayor of Minneapolis, who has also established a trust fund for the maintenance of the hospital. The out-patient department will be financed by State funds already appropriated for the purpose.—(Modern Hospital, Chicago, October, 1927, p. 138.)

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

The staff of the Wisconsin Children's Home Society has been strengthened during the past year by the addition of five workers having experience in child-caring work. The name has been changed to the Wisconsin Children's Home and Aid Society to express an increasingly important phase of its program. Another significant development is the participation of the Society in the Milwaukee Community Fund.

The Institution Inspection Bureau, Ohio Department of Public Welfare, has decided to try out a new method this year in its work with child-caring institutions. Instead of having a member of the staff visit the institution, confer only with the executive, and later send back written recommendations, it is planned to have the staff worker arrange for round table meetings with the members of boards of trustees and executives at the time of her visit. Such a plan will make it possible for the board members and superintendents to initiate discussion on specific and immediate problems and to receive at once such help as the worker from the state department is able to give.

The Juvenile Protective League of Cincinnati, Galen F. Achauer, Executive Secretary, has completed a year of work under its revised program which stresses the provision of "ways and means by which the youth of city and country may be more effectively protected from the acquirement of habits tending to antisocial acts." The guidance and counsel of Big Brothers, Big Sisters and probation officers are provided as part of the program. A continuous analytical study of local conditions is maintained to discover the causes of juvenile delinquency, and effort is directed to their elimination and the development of wholesome conditions. All of this is in close co-operation with the Juvenile Court, of which Mr. Achauer is Director of Social Service.

Miss Eleanor Clifton, psychologist, has joined the staff of the Child Placing Agency of the State Charities Aid Association.

Miss Clifton was formerly connected with the White Williams Foundation of Philadelphia, and has been more recently psychologist of the Psychiatric Research staff at Berkshire Industrial Farm, New York.

STAFF NOTES

Miss Mary Irene Atkinson, formerly in charge of the Department of Institutional Care, returned to the Child Welfare League of America staff and in charge of the same department on November 1st.

Miss Emma O. Lundberg continues her affiliation with the League as Director of Studies and Surveys.

FORESTALLING THE WINTER COLD

Chilly days when ventilation is difficult and clothing hard to adjust bring up annually the ever-recurring matter of colds and how to avoid them. This set of suggestions from the Travelers Insurance Company might well be framed for the bathroom wall:

1. Take regular exercise daily. This may be done by walking to and from work if the distance is reasonable. When this is impracticable, simple setting-up exercises for a few minutes night and morning are beneficial. Spend as much time as possible outdoors.

GET PLENTY OF SLEEP

2. Put in regular hours of sleep. This is important during epidemics of colds. Sleep restores spent energy and builds up body resistance.

3. Keep the feet dry. If they have become wet, change to dry shoes and stockings at the earliest opportunity. A hot foot-bath when the feet have been wet or chilled will often help to ward off a cold.

4. When colds are prevalent, avoid crowded public places, such as motion picture theaters, as much as possible.

DODGE THE SNEEZES OF OTHERS

5. Do not get the direct breath from persons having colds. They should protect you by covering the mouth with a handkerchief when they cough or sneeze.

6. Wash your hands frequently; use clean towels and other toilet articles. Avoid putting the fingers in mouth or nose.

7. Keep the nose, mouth and throat clean. Brush the teeth at least twice a day. Gargle the throat, especially after having been to the theater. Do it every night before retiring. Common table salt, a rounded teaspoonful to a pint of warm water, makes an excellent cleansing gargle.—HYGEIA, October, 1927.

CHANGES FOR THE DIRECTORY

Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children:

Holyoke District—Miss Evelyn F. Perry, District Agent, instead of Miss Mary M. Moore, resigned.

Boston District—Mr. Edgar W. Austin, Supervisor, instead of Mr. Ray S. Hubbard, who becomes full-time Superintendent of Districts and Branches.

Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania—New Branch Office, Lehigh Valley Children's Aid Society. Miss Helen Shackelford, County Secretary, 105 S. Fourth Street, Allentown, Penna.

NEW MEMBERS

Michigan: D. A. Blodgett Home for Children (D), Grand Rapids, 920 Cherry Street, S. E.

Miss M. Arline Bauer, Director of Social Service.

Articles 2 and 3.

Pennsylvania: Bureau for Jewish Children (F), Philadelphia, 330 S. 9th Street.

Miss Zena J. Blanc, Executive Secretary.

ENCLOSURES

(Sent to Members Only)

A GUIDE TO YOUR READING ON CHILD WELFARE PROBLEMS, Published by The Canadian Council on Child Welfare, Plaza Building, Ottawa, Canada—A short classified bibliography for the general reader interested in child welfare problems.

BUSINESS AND BABIES

The following is from a nationally circulated "Monthly Magazine of Merchandising Helps for the Buyer of Infants' and Children's Wear." It is hard to credit the fact that it was published in the year 1927.

"If, in addition to an increase of 200 per cent in sales during Baby Week, you might credit yourself with the fact that 57 orphan babies had been placed in happy homes due to your efforts, yours probably would be a feeling of real accomplishment.' . . . As head of the — Infants' Department, Mr. H— accomplished nothing less than is stated above. And the way in which he did it is well worth telling.

"In — is the — Home Society, under the direction of Mr. —, Superintendent. To this Society, courts of the various counties throughout the state send babies who have been placed in charge of the courts because they are absolutely dependent or neglected. These babies, after passing the most severe tests to insure proper physical conditions, are subject to legal adoption by persons approved by the authorities. . . .

"This year, during Baby Week, six of these babies were . . . placed in homes of those who filed applications in the Infants' Department of the — Dry Goods Company.

"Three girls and three boys made up the interesting complement of babies for privilege of adopting whom 57 applications were made. And rather than that any applicants who received the approval of the Superintendent should be disappointed, he promised, and carried out his promise, that he would secure babies for all. This was done in 90 days. . . .

"During Baby Week, three of the babies presented for adoption appeared in the window each morning and afternoon. . . .

"Applications for adoption were made in the Infants' Department and were filed in order of their making. The first six qualified persons on the list received the six babies. Representatives of the orphanage were present to make examinations of the application for adoption. Every effort was made to insure placing of children in suitable homes. Before the week was over the 57 applications had been approved. . . .

" 'We increased our business in the Infants' Department that week 200 per cent,' said Mr. H—. 'We had 57 applications for the babies, all of which were satisfactory. The first six who made applications received the six babies that were present during the week and the other 51 applicants received babies as fast as they came into the Home. It certainly was a most successful occasion for babies and all concerned.' "

INTER-CITY CONFERENCE ON ILLEGITIMACY BULLETIN

President: MR. JAMES E. EWERS, Cleveland, Ohio.
Vice-President: MRS. EDITH M. H. BAYLOR, Boston, Mass.
Secretary-Treasurer: MISS RUTH COLBY, St. Paul, Minn.

A STUDY OF ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS IN OHIO

This study, by Miss Julia Griggs of the Council of Social Agencies of Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio, included an analysis of the data recorded on the birth certificates of Franklin County and comparative figures from Cuyahoga and Hamilton Counties, thus including the three largest cities in the state—Columbus, Cleveland, and Cincinnati. It was found that the illegitimate birth rates of Franklin and Hamilton Counties were approximately twice as high as the rate in the state as a whole for a period of ten years. In Cuyahoga County the rate was about the same as for the whole state. The three counties represented 30 per cent of the total population of the state, but they included 45 per cent of all recorded illegitimate births for the state.

The question of whether or not the Negro population is a factor in the illegitimate birth rate is answered by data showing that the illegitimate birth rate for Negroes is higher than for the white population. But, on the other hand, no direct relationship was found between the size of the Negro population and the illegitimate birth rate. Franklin County, which had the largest proportion of Negro inhabitants, had the smallest percentage of illegitimate Negro births. In Cuyahoga County the situation was exactly reversed.

Like other studies of this problem, the Ohio study shows that the "problem of illegitimacy is clearly a problem of youth." More than one-half of the mothers were under 20 years of age; almost 5 per cent of the whole number were under 16 years of age.

One of the interesting features of the study is the analysis of the residence of the mothers. The variation shown in the various counties bears a direct relation to the presence of maternity homes. In Franklin County, 44 per cent of the mothers were non-residents; almost 57 per cent of the births occurred in maternity homes. Hamilton County reported 18 per cent non-resident mothers; 28 per cent of the births were in maternity homes. In Cuyahoga County, 24 per cent were non-resident; 15 per cent of the births were in maternity homes. The prospective unmarried mothers came to Franklin County from 41 different counties in the state, and from 9 other states. The popularity of Columbus

is explained in the report as being related to the central location and accessibility of the city.

It is commonly assumed that prospective unmarried mothers go to other cities for confinement. This obviously is true so far as it concerns girls and women who live in the smaller cities and towns, who of necessity come to larger cities for hospital and maternity home care. But the facts presented in this report indicate that there is no such shifting between the larger cities, as one might expect, unless it is assumed that girls living in the larger cities of Ohio avoid other Ohio cities and go to cities in other states. The report shows that of the 292 mothers whose residence was Columbus or Franklin County, only two went to Cuyahoga or Hamilton Counties for confinement. For the 646 mothers who were residents of Cleveland or Cuyahoga County, only two births were reported from counties outside the place of residence, and for the 508 Cincinnati or Hamilton County residents, there was no birth recorded outside of Hamilton County. Undoubtedly, all of the story cannot be known without much more adequate data than have been available, but the facts presented in this report indicate that migration from large cities is not as great as is popularly supposed. The facts brought out in this study point to the need for study of the whole question of the field of service that is rendered by maternity homes, the relationship that should exist between these institutions and the localities in which the mothers reside, and their responsibility to the community in which they operate.

The Child Welfare Committee of the League of Nations at its third session held in Geneva early in May discussed, among other topics, the following: The cinema in relation to child welfare, which has been the subject of an investigation by the committee; the protection of life and health in early infancy, especially the standardizing of statistics of still-births and infant mortality; the mental and physical recreation of children and young people, which has been the subject of a special investigation; alcoholism in relation to child welfare; a report by the International Labour Office on family allowances; a study of Juvenile Courts by the International Prison Commission; the prevalence and causes of blindness; assistance to and education of blind children; and the illegitimate child. The committee decided to make a study of the position of the illegitimate child and instructed the Secretary General to send a questionnaire to all countries, requesting information on the rights and obligations of the mother and father, action to establish paternity, conditions governing legitimization, rights of inheritance or succession, and existence of official guardianship for illegitimate children.